

H.R. 4231 Will Put \$38.6 Billion Back Into the American Economy

March 21, 2012

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) joined several of his colleagues in introducing the Gas Rebate Act today in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Gas Rebate Act will slam shut tax loopholes for oil and gas companies and give the money back to American families to help them cope with rising gas prices.

“Every year, we see gas prices rise as summer approaches. This bill will provide relief for real people who are struggling in today’s economy and end bad practices that have benefitted big oil and gas companies at the expense of the American people,” said Rep. McNerney.

The Gas Rebate Act ends tax loopholes for oil and gas companies that are paid for by American taxpayers and returns the money to them through targeted gas rebates. This bill will return \$38.6 billion to the American economy and will result in rebates of approximately \$160 per vehicle. The Internal Revenue Service and the Secretary of the Treasury will work with states to oversee and distribute rebates to individuals and businesses for each vehicle they own or lease for longer than one year.

Last year, the five biggest oil companies combined to earn a record \$137 billion in profits despite producing 4 percent less oil than in 2010. During the same time period, these companies raked in approximately \$4 billion due to tax loopholes funded by American taxpayers, even as they laid off more than 10,000 workers.

“The Gas Rebate Act will undo an unfair tax practice and provide relief to people who are paying escalating gas prices. Folks are already stretched to the limit in today’s economy and they just can’t afford to pay even more at the pump. This is especially true in our region, where we have some of the longest commutes in the country,” said Rep. McNerney.